

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 85

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Ray Norris upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Ray Norris, who served as the executive director of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce and recently embarked upon his well-earned retirement; and

WHEREAS, a native of Michigan, Mr. Norris came to live in Clay County in 2001, after retiring from a thirty-three-year business career with Clark Equipment Company; his interest in retiring to a rural setting began after he became controller of Clark's southern division and its facilities in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Ray Norris came across a Knoxville newspaper that contained an advertisement for land for sale in Clay County; one phone call and one visit to Clay County later, he was the owner of property on Baptist Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norris's career in public service in Clay County began in 2007, when he filled a vacancy of the Chamber of Commerce's directorship; he was encouraged to apply for the vacancy following his service on the Clay Gas and Utility District board; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the helm of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Norris was integral in the renovation of the chamber's office; the project created an attractive

and professional space to welcome visitors and possible employers and residents to Clay County and Celina; and

WHEREAS, also during his time as executive director, Mr. Norris and the chamber were instrumental in bringing Cumberland Bio-Science and V&F Transformers to the area; and

WHEREAS, Ray Norris went above and beyond the call of duty by committing extra time and traveling away from home to attend meetings and other important functions on the chamber's behalf; he also played a major role in securing grant funds for various improvement projects in the area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norris served with dignity and dedication during his time as the executive director of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce, and it is fitting that he be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Ray Norris upon his retirement as the executive director of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce, extending our best wishes for every success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.